GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:278
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2002
EXTENT OF AIR COVERAGE
SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PATIL)

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to increase the coverage of AIR/DD in the 89% uncovered region of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps likely to be taken to reduce the uncovered region?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 278 FOR REPLY ON 21/3/2002.

(a), (b) & (c) : Doordarshan coverage is available in satellite mode throughout the country and in the Terrestrial mode the coverage area is 76.8%, including the fringe areas. The target for TV coverage for the year2002-03 is 80.1% by area and 91% by population. All India Radio service,in Short Wave mode, is also available almost in the entire country. The present coverage of AIR in Medium Wave and FM mode is 89.51% by area. The target for AIR coverage for the year 2002-03 is 91.45% by area and99.10% by population. Installation of a number of radio and television transmitters of varying capacities is under implementation for expansion of terrestrial coverage in the country. Extension of service of AIR in MediumWave and FM mode and that of Doordarshan in Terrestrial mode, are capital-intensive ventures and their further expansion is dependant on availability of resources and inter se priorities. In order to cover remote and inaccessible areas through alternative technologies, a Cable-Head end Scheme in the North-east has been approved, as a pilot Project to be implemented by Doordarshan in twenty (20) villages in each of the North- Eastern States (including Sikkim).